

CHURCH BULLETIN

June 25, 2017

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SAINTS MARKELLA AND DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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3rd Sunday of Matthew

45 Holy Martyrs of Nikopolis, Armenia



DURING THE REIGN of the wicked Emperor Licinius, who ruled the eastern half of the Byzantine Empire, there was a great persecution of Christians. In Armenian Nicopolis, St. Leontius, with several of his friends, appeared before Lysius, the representative of Emperor Licinius and declared that they were Christians. "And where is your Christ?" Lysius asked. "Was He not crucified and did He not die?" To that St. Leontius replied: "Since you know that our Christ died, know also that He resurrected from the dead and ascended into heaven." After a lengthy discussion about the Faith, Lysius scourged them and threw them into prison and gave them neither food nor drink. Vlassina, a benevolent Christian woman brought them water and handed it to them through the window of the prison. An angel of God appeared to comfort and encourage them. When the time came for sentencing, two jailers and many others appeared before Lysius as converted Christians, totaling forty-five in number. The judge sentenced all of them to death but in this manner: first, that their arms and feet be severed with an axe and then they be thrown into the fire. This horrible two-fold punishment was carried out and the souls of the holy martyrs took flight to their Lord entering into eternal life. They honorably suffered and inherited the Kingdom in the year 319 A.D.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vacation Church School

Our annual Vacation Church School is set for the week of July 10-13 at the church. The time will be from 9:30am to 12:30pm each day. Presvytera Kathy is the Coordinator again this year. Please see her or Father Thomas with any questions.

Greek Festival 2017

Preparations are underway for the 2017 Greek Festival. The dates are September 1, 2 & 3. Labor Day Weekend, at the Emerald Coast Convention Center. As usual we will be asking the Community members to participate. We get excellent help every year from our Parish, and the Festival is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together for the service of our Church. Cookie is once again serving as Chairperson. This year she is being assisted by a Festival Board, which is made up of Angelos Thomas, Katrina Thomas, Rob Horton, Vicki Boolos, Nick Vlahos, Chris Rakas and Fr. Thomas. The Festival Chairperson are of course also going to be involved on the preparations as they are every year. More details to follow.....

Coffee Hour Hosts

We have a number of open Sundays for Coffee Hour in July and August. We welcome families to sponsor Coffee Hour those Sundays. Kindly see the sign-up sheet in the Hall or speak with Cookie if you can help. Thank you.



PRAY FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

Please bring names of your loved ones, both living and deceased, so the priest may pray for them. We pray for all people. With Divine Liturgy, the names of the Orthodox are commemorated during the Proskomidi (the Preparation of the Gifts) and during Liturgy.

- * Erica Ailes
- * Katia Antonis
- * Thea Bass
- * The Boltz Family
- * Lark Tringas Bostick
- * Kathy Bowdoin & Family
- * Mary Ann Carr
- * Vonni Cobb
- * Angela Walters Comfort
- * Max Copeland
- * Tsao Chien Din
- * Mike and Debra Donagan
- * Fr. George Dursa
- * Dorothy Eshelman
- * Zachary Fletcher
- * Chryssoula Henderson
- * Jim Hobson
- * Jake Hoskin
- * Cleopatra Hughes & Family
- * Nancy Janos
- * Natalia
- * Oxana
- * Constantine Sheeder
- * Mary Spiridoula Kalista
- * Philip Kanellopoulos
- * Sheree Kanellopoulos
- * Katy Kruljac
- * Julie Mamani
- * Angela McBroom
- * Ariel McBroom
- * Nicholas McBroom
- * Butch Otis
- * Tina Puffer
- * Xaire Sheikho
- * Steve Stephanopoulos
- * Stanojka Stevanovic
- * David Stewart
- * Janet Sutherland
- * Sue and John Tullis
- * Lou Vagias, Sr.
- * Dana Visoiu
- * Badra Walters
- * Larisa
- * Edward Scruggs & Family

*All service men and women who are deployed overseas.

* The departed servant of God Slavik.

2017 PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

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Worship Guide

June 25, 2017

3rd Sunday of Matthew

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Tone

When You descended to the realm of death You as life immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all radiant divinity. And when You from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out, O life giving Christ and our God we give glory.

Troparion of St. Markella in the First Tone

Obedient to the laws of the Lord and to His divine teachings, you kept them blamelessly, O Markella and being frightened of the violence of your father who pursued you. O pure bride of Christ you hid in the mountains where he found you and took your life. Glory to Him who has given you strength, Glory to Him who has crowned you, Glory to Him who works healings through you to everyone.

Troparion of St. Demetrios in the Third Tone

The world found in you a great champion in danger. A victor who could turn the nations back. As you restrained Levi in the arena, you also inspired Nestor to courage. Therefore, Holy Great Martyr Demetrios, entreat Christ God to grant us great mercy!

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Second Tone

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

The Epistle Reading

St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:1-10

Prokeimenon. Mode 2.

Psalm 117.14,18

The Lord is my strength and my song.

Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

BRETHREN, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

The Gospel Reading

The Gospel According to Matthew 6:22-33

THE LORD said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."